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A.NOLEN

Assaulting Mt. Helicon: Writing and Current Affairs.

monthly archives: OCTOBER 2014

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS INC.

When I first read about Strategic Operations Inc. (or 'STOPS'), I thought it was a hoax. This is how their company website describes what they do:

> *Strategic Operations Inc. (STOPS), on the lot of Stu Segall Productions, a full-service TV / movie studio, provides Hyper-Realistic™ training services and products for military, law enforcement, and other organizations responsible for homeland security.*
>
> *The company employs state-of-the-art Hollywood battlefield special effects, combat wound effects, medical simulation systems, role players, subject matter experts, Combat Training Coordinators, and training scenarios to create training environments that are the most unique in the industry.*

And…

> *Since 2002 STOPS has provided Hyper-Realistic™ training support to more than 700,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guard personnel prior to deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.*
>
> *STOPS introduced "The Magic of Hollywood" to live military training by employing all the techniques of film and TV production integrated with military tactics, techniques, and procedures.*
>
> *The result has influenced how live, military training is currently being conducted in the military.*
>
> *Hyper-Realistic™ is now an often-stated goal to be achieved in the training world.*

Strategic Operations Inc. claims that the benefit of this Hyper-Realistic™ training is that it provides "stress inoculation" for service people.

I had to find out if this military contractor was for real, so I contacted the National Defense Industrial Association. The NDIA was able to confirm that Strategic Operations Inc. is a corporate member. So, sadly, 'yes' STOPS is a real company.

(It may interest readers to know that STOPS also claims 'affiliation' with the US Naval Institute, but when I contacted the USNI they informed me that companies can't be members. STOPS, the for-profit corporate entity, has *no affiliation* with the USNI.)

Before I get going I need to make something absolutely clear: *I am not against better training for soldiers, especially if it legitimately decreases their chance of developing any type of illness. I have a very big problem with private contractors who promise soldiers health benefits which they have no reason to believe they can deliver. I have a very big problem with has-been Hollywood moguls who want to exploit the painfully young men and women who sign up to fight for their country.*

Below is a Youtube video that STOPS created to explain their services. (Note, this video is posted as "Stu Segall Strategic Operations Video Business Card" with Segall's company logo in the intro. However, the contact information for a different company is also provided http://www.hit-t.com ; rickbailer6@gmail.com; (858) 967-5666.)

Adobe Flash Player or an HTML5 supported browser is required for video playback.
Get the latest Flash Player
Learn more about upgrading to an HTML5 browser

I encourage you to watch the video above, because it shows the,

'quality' of the services provided. *All "the magic of Hollywood", for sure!*

If you don't have time for the Youtube video, this is a photograph of "role players" which comes from Strategic Operations Inc's 'Services' page:

It's just like shooting the real thing!

Perhaps the ugliest thing about Strategic Operations Inc is their claim to provide "stress inoculation" for military clients. "Stress inoculation" sounds dangerously close to 'vaccine for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder'. Does Strategic Operations offer any scientifically-based evidence for their claim to improve soldiers' health? Here's what they say:

> ***The value of HYPER-REALISTIC™ Training***
>
> *A Defense Science Board task force found that the probability of being a casualty decreases significantly after the first few "decisive combats". At our training laboratory you can test your equipment, your methods, and your tactics – in real world conditions – without the real world casualties. This is the value of Hyper-Realistic™ training.*
>
> *Researchers from the Naval Health Research recently studied Marines training in the Infantry Immersion Trainer (IIT) at Camp Pendleton. They evaluated training participants for stress reactivity, mitigation, and inoculation. The researchers measured salivary cortisol and alpha amylase levels in Marines prior to – and after – immersion in this Hyper-Realistic™ environment. Results in this on-going study found that the "acute stress response to the IIT training is substantial". Salivary hormone levels also found that this type of "IIT training provided a stress inoculation effect" ("Stress Reactions and Mitigation in Immersive Training", 31 March 2009).*

STOPS appears to be comparing their stage-sets to actual battle experience. *I'm not a doctor, but I play one on TV…* I probably don't have to point this out to anolen.com readers, but for training to desensitize a person to the threat of being shot at or blown up, that training needs to involve a *credible threat* of being shot at or blown up. An extra writhing in a fat suit is nothing like watching a kid bleed out or lose a leg; I believe that to suggest these two things have something meaningful in common is not only callous, but **soulless**. Soulless like the TV producers who turned Bulgakov's *The Embroidered Towel* into slippery slap-stick around the body of a dying child.

After confusing TV with real life, STOPS makes an extraordinary claim: that the stress induced by their stage-sets is "substantial" enough to "inoculate" soldiers against further stress. **STOPS doesn't link to the study they reference.** I contacted IIT about the study and I am still waiting for IIT to get back to me; I also contacted STOPS, same problem.

Let's give Mr. Segall's company the benefit of the doubt: let's say that this study exists AND that its conclusions are what STOPS claims them to be. If STOPS has been inoculating hundreds of thousands of soldiers against stress since 2002, then surely PTSD data would reflect that? Unfortunately for Mr. Segall, the data say that PTSD is getting worse.

According to the US Department of Veteran's Affairs, PTSD incidence 'at the time of study' was 15.2% of males and 8.1% of females for Vietnam Veterans (study conducted 1986-88); 10.1% for Gulf War Veterans (study conducted 1995-97); and a 2008 study of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Afghanistan and Iraq) service members found 13.8% PTSD prevalence.

The data are even more grim if you believe the National Institute of Health, which claims the following:

> *The point prevalence of combat-related PTSD reported across studies of US combat veterans ranges from about 2–17%; and lifetime prevalence about 6–31% [2,3,17–19,25–37]. Point prevalence rates from veterans of the Vietnam War ranges from 2.2% – 15.2% [2,3,25–28]. Among Persian Gulf War veterans, PTSD rates reported are between 1.9% – 13.2% [30–39] and from veterans of the current conflict in the Middle East, PTSD point prevelance is reported from 4%–17.1% [17–19]. See Table 1 for a summary of studies.*

It seems that despite "the magic of Hollywood", veterans' PTSD problems are only getting worse.

But perhaps by "stress inoculation" Mr. Segall and his colleagues are being more cynical: perhaps they're only marketing a product that will stop young people "freezing up" in battle, a sort of anti-Combat-Stress-Reaction 'vaccine'. There's very little scientific evidence to back up this claim either, the best I could find relates to PTSD treatment– as stated in this 2013 paper on pre-deployment training and combat stress:

> *Furthermore, there has been little research examining military specific protective factors, such as pre-deployment preparedness, on PTSD treatment response.*

That paper goes on to state the following:

> *There was preliminary support for the moderating effect of*

> *pre-deployment preparedness on the association between combat exposure and treatment response. Together, these findings suggest that increased combat exposure is associated with poor treatment response in veterans with PTSD; however, this can be reduced by elevated pre-deployment preparedness.*

None of that says anti-stress, nor anti-CSR, nor anti-PTSD "inoculation" to me. Neither does it say increased battlefield effectiveness. In fact, according to the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine, responses that are "simple and instinctive (like running or freezing)" are unlikely to be impaired by threatening situations, so it's unclear to me that a soldier with a flight/fight/freeze problem would be helped by 'Hyper-Realistic ™' training. (Read the US Army's Stress and Combat Performance factsheet here: Stress-and-Combat.)

In conclusion, I think we can throw 'Hyper-Realistic™' training in the 'snake oil' basket. I'm reminded of what J. Kirk Wiebe said in his USAToday interview video on Snowden:

> *The other piece of this was we weren't just trying to talk about privacy, the way that the government was going about deriving intelligence from digital data flows was poor form, uninformed.* ***There seemed to be more of a desire to contract out, cause a money flow, than there was to actually perform the mission.*** *And Tom [Drake] can tell you– is professionally trained in how major organizations acquire major capabilities, and he saw none of it, right Tom?*

Col G.I. Wilson described contractors' parasitism a different way in his landmark essay, *Careerism and Psychopathy in the US Military Leadership*:

> *The Department of Defense (DOD) that I have observed all too closely for over three decades is an overgrown bureaucracy committed to standing still for, if not actively promoting, poorly conceived policy agendas and hardware programs funded and supported by Congress. Coupled to that is the task of attracting the blind loyalty of senior military and civilian actors on the Washington, D.C. stage.* ***For the careerists in America's national security apparatus, it is all about awarding contracts and personal advancement, not winning wars.***

Companies like Strategic Operations Inc. are parasites which grow fat off the "money flow" around the US military/industrial complex. Every dollar that's spent on STOPS is one that isn't spent on working equipment for soldiers, or healthcare for veterans. So who are these creeps?

Stu Segall, (born Stuart Charles Segal) STOPS President.

'Stu Segall' aka Charles Stuart Segal

> *"Strategic Operations has changed the face of tactical training by introducing to the training world "Hollywood" movie and TV-making techniques to make live training as realistic as safely possible. This innovation has been made possible by Stu Segall who brings to Strategic Operations more than 35 years experience as a producer of feature films, television movies and shows."*

Stu makes the trashy programming that American television is infamous for. He started working with Stephen J. Cannell Productions in 1984 and produced the television series *Hunter* for NBC. In 1991 He made *Silk Stalkings* in the San Diego studio he founded. His other projects include: *Renegade, Pensacola, Wings of Gold, Invisibleman, The Chronicle, 18 Wheels of Justice, High Tide, Cover Me, Rising Son, Veronica Mars, Desire and Secret Obsessions*.

"Stu Segall Productions is now one of the largest independent TV and film studios in America … Stu Segall Productions has produced for ABC, Beacon, CBS, Disney Channel, Fox, NBC, Paramount, Showtime, Sony/Columbia/Tri-Star, Studios USA, Universal, UPN and Warner Brothers." Classy character. You can contact him here.

Kit Lavell, Executive Vice President

Kit Lavell

Lavell "flew 243 combat missions as a Naval Aviator in Vietnam" and writes about warfare in his free time. He's also found a way to make money out of affordable housing in California– who knew?!

> *"Kit has been an executive with the City of San Diego, has served on the board of directors of the national POW/MIA Freedom Foundation, the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Project, and has worked with disadvantaged veterans, for which he received a Presidential Citation. He has served on various boards and commissions for the City and County of San Diego.*
>
> *He was the recipient of the California Affordable Housing Award presented by the Governor for innovative housing projects for the elderly and handicapped."*

Russ Lowell, Chief Financial Officer

Lowell is an accountant who served in the Navy *and* worked for L-3 Communications and General Electric– so he knows both sides of the military.

"Russ brings 25 years of management experience to STOPS spanning a broad spectrum of industries, including manufacturing, software development, R&D and wireless." Let me guess… besides

keeping track of the money Russ wires up the remote-control exploding Styrofoam cars?

"For the past 10 years, he [Russ Lowell] has been associated with companies providing homeland protection, and high-tech military hardware."

Russ Lowell

Kevin Waskow, Vice President of Contracts

Waskow is Segall's *adept* to the magical world of military contracting, where the right connections will get you something for nothing.

Kevin Waskow

"Kevin retired from the Navy as a Commander in March 2005. During his career he was certified Defense Acquisition Workforce Level 3 in Contracting and in Business, Cost Estimating and Financial Management. He was a selected member of the Acquisition Professional Community. " *Band of Acquisition Brothers!*

"After retirement he returned to Baghdad as a contractor working at the Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan. He has been with Strategic Operations since February 2007."

John "Rick" Bowen, Training Operations

Bowen is an ex-marine who helps Segall's team of Hollywood professionals make the "magic" happen for hundreds of thousands of US service people.

John Bowen

"He [John Bowen] also spent time at the Naval Air Systems Command aboard Patuxent River, Maryland as a Deputy Program Manager for Marine and Navy H-1 Helicopters where he supervised – procurement, engineering, logistics, and budget – of all H-1 support."

"His time with the Marines included multiple deployments to locales throughout the world; to include Japan, Korea, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, Canada, Qatar, and Afghanistan – with multiple combat tours in Iraq. John transitioned from the Marine Corps as a Lieutenant Colonel in the summer of 2010 and joined the Strategic Operations Team as a Project Manager focusing on Marine Corps operations."

Jeffrey "Steve" Markham, Director of Medical Products and Services

Markham is another Navy veteran:

Steve Markham

"Steve is a 23 year Navy veteran who served 19 of those years as a Reconnaissance Corpsman with the Marine Corps, most recently as the Navy Senior Enlisted Leader and the acting Command Master Chief of the 1st Marine Division."

"Deploying eight times, four into combat zones, Steve has experienced combat in both Afghanistan and Iraq. He served in leadership positions at all organizational levels in and out of combat zones that included 1st Marine Division Navy Senior Enlisted Leader, Regimental Senior Chief in Afghanistan, Recon Battalion Leading Chief Petty Officer (LCPO), Company Operations Chief, Company LPO, Assistant Platoon Sergeant, and Reconnaissance team member."

There are more men on Strategic Operations Inc's "team", but they're Canadians and Brits, so I'm going to pick my battles.

I'm less disgusted with Stu Segall, because a glance at his prior career will show readers that he's just doing what it's in his nature to do. I could get mad at Stu for being a soulless user of broken institutions, but that would be like getting mad at a dog for sh*tting in my front yard. Dogs poop. Men like Stu start companies like 'Strategic Operations Inc'.

I have visceral disgust for the veterans on Stu's "team". You guys ought to know better. You're participating in the exploitation of a lot of young people; young people who'll never have the safety nets nor job opportunities that your generation enjoyed. You're using people who are just like you were once, and you're doing it at the taxpayer's expense. *How do you live with yourselves? Are the values you're working by the values you want to teach your children?*

Or, perhaps, this callous indifference to other people is why these men were promoted *and sat out* their military careers in the first place…

How do we fix this problem? I'll quote Col. Wilson again:

Careerists serve for all the wrong reasons. They weaken national defense, rob the military of its warrior ethos and drive away the very highly principled mavericks that we need to reverse the decay. This can only be remedied by rekindling the time honored principles of military service (i.e. duty, honor, country) among both officers and civilians.

As Americans, we all must exercise more care and caution in our appraisal of our senior military officers and the

> *Washington "suits" that exert dominating influence on the cost of defense and the conduct of American national security policy.*

And where the rubber meets the road…

> *How do we fix this? Part of the answer is military reform ushered in by drastic budget cuts to hardware programs. Col. Michael Wyly, U.S. Marine Corps, ret., who is held in high respect, seeks a culture where a warrior class of "mavericks" is accepted and those who place themselves above the time-honored principles of military service (duty, honor, country) find themselves on the outside looking in.*

6 COMMENTS

BLITZ WITCH

About three months ago I watched a BBC documentary on Helen Duncan, the famous WWII psychic, titled *The Unexplained: The Blitz Witch*. Tony Robinson is the host and you can watch it for free on Youtube here:

Helen Duncan was a spirit medium who made two notable predictions about the sinking of British warships HMS Hood in May, 1941 and HMS *Barham* that November; these predictions 'came true'. Helen had a well-heeled clientele, which included **the head of Scottish Intelligence Brigadier Roy C. Firebrace**, who was present for her prediction of the destruction of HMS Hood. (Firebrace was complicit, if not entirely comfortable, in the 'forced repatriation' of soldiers after WWII, which resulted in the murder of over *two million* men by Stalin– in my last post, Curtis Dall was quoted calling these repatriations "Eisenhower's forced-repatriations", see Nikolai Tolstoy's *The Great Betrayal*.) Apparently, portends of the next life weighed heavily on Firebrace even prior to the Yalta conference.

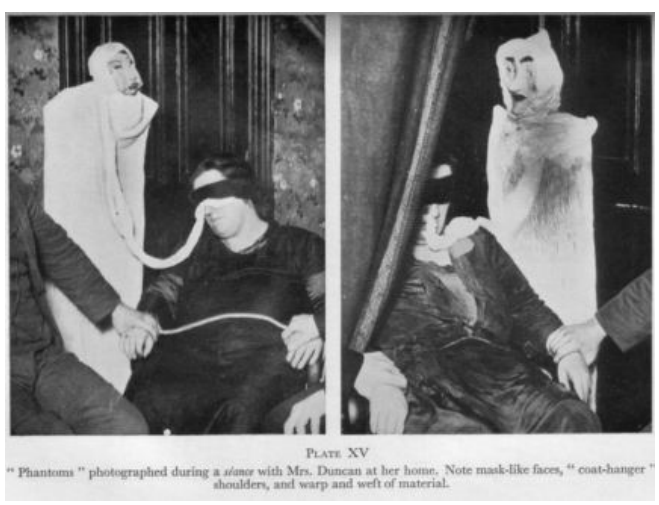


PLATE XV
"Phantoms" photographed during a *séance* with Mrs. Duncan at her home. Note mask-like faces, "coat-hanger" shoulders, and warp and weft of material.

Helen Duncan and some of her 'ectoplasmic' manifestations.

Firebrace visited Helen Duncan because, like many well-connected Brits at the time, he believed her psychic powers could give him useful information. What he heard about HMS Hood startled him, according to Firebrace's wartime secretary Dr. Mary Austin in Tony Robinson's *Unexplained* documentary:

> *[Tony Robinson reads from a 1959 magazine interview with Brigadier Firebrace] During the War, I was head of intelligence in Scotland and I had the opportunity of attending a séance with Mrs. Duncan in Edinburgh…*
>
> *[Dr. Austin] Tragedy! HMS Hood is sunk and all the men are sunken… something like that. [Firebrace] couldn't wait to get back to a telephone to get the Admiralty to tell him what he'd heard, that Hood had gone down. And they said "Rubbish!" No such thing. No, no, no. Wrong.*
>
> *[Tony Robinson] He got another telephone call back from the Admiralty.*
>
> *[Dr. Austin] Yes. Not then, but two days later.*
>
> *[Tony Robinson] And what did they say?*
>
> *[Dr. Austin] She's quite right. All was lost.*

> *[Tony Robinson] You don't think that there was any way that either the Brigadier or Helen Duncan could have known that the Hood was sunk?*
>
> *[Dr. Austin] No, no. Quite impossible. Quite impossible.*

What happened next sounds like something out of *Alice in Wonderland*: MI5 called in a crack team to investigate Helen Duncan which included Ian Fleming. Over two years later, in 1944, Helen was charged with espionage but that charge was quickly changed to 'pretending to talk to the dead', which was illegal in Britain because of a 1735 law against witchcraft. The use of this act grabbed headlines in all the wrong ways.

Helen Duncan was the second-to-last British subject to be tried under that anti-witchcraft law. (A 72 year old woman was silenced using the same law shortly afterward.) The choice to use the Witchcraft Act to prosecute Duncan was so weird that Churchill himself wrote this to his secretary:

> *HOME SECRETARY [Herbert Morrison]*
>
> *Let me have a report on why the Witchcraft Act of 1735 was used in a modern Court of Justice.*
>
> *What was the cost of the trial to the state, observing that witnesses were brought from Portsmouth and maintained here in this crowded London for a fortnight, and the Recorder [His Lordship Sir Gerald Dodson] kept busy with all this obsolete tomfoolery…*
>
> — *From Nina Shandler's* The Strange Case of Hellish Nell

Helen was given a show trial, complete with a famous comic-impersonator prosecutor (the son of a well-known comedian), and a bevy of star witnesses, including the *agent provocateur* and mystic debunker Harry Price. Rich patrons hired Helen a flashy, theatrical lawyer and prominent supporters of Duncan, including Blitz war-hero Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding and high-ranking Freemason Alfred Dodd, testified on her behalf. (I ask readers to remember that Duncan had high-level masonic supporters.) The Crown got what it wanted in the end: Helen Duncan was convicted and locked away until the end of WWII.

The majority of modern presentations of Helen Duncan's story focus on 1) questions such as "Was she really psychic?" or 2) outrage over her 'religious persecution'. These presentations willfully miss the point. Helen Duncan probably was a German spy or at least being used by German spies. What's shocking about Helen's story is that she *wasn't* tried as a spy, but as a witchy fraud. Putting Duncan's beliefs on trial was hugely dangerous for the British Government because in the 1940s Spiritualism was a politically powerful force with followers in the millions and growing. The Spiritualist movement was largely a middle-class one, making it well-funded, well-educated and *potentially* revolutionary: too many people were like Alfred Conan Doyle– searching for sons who'd died in needless wars.

In answer to Churchill's question, the Crown took this calculated risk because talking about what Helen was doing *in terms of espionage* gambled with the safety of ongoing black-ops in Germany.

This post, readers, is about how networks of 'psychics' are used by intelligence operations– NOT for actionable intelligence, but to manipulate people who believe in psychics. Helen Duncan was charged with espionage initially because 1) her predictions were demoralizing to military/spook brass and 2) she had a suspicious habit of visiting locations that were sensitive to the planning of upcoming D-Day operations. Helen Duncan looked a lot like an enemy spook, and UK intel should know, because they were running a very similar operation against German military/spook brass at the same time. This is how Richard Crossman, Britain's Political Warfare Executive during WWII, describes anti-German 'psychic' operations:

> *Crossman even claimed that there was an 'Astrological Programme' whose audience inside Germany probably consisted of about forty individuals at most, but which it was believed was popular with senior members of the Nazi Party.*[33] *Its aim was to play on the fact that many senior Nazis were known to have an interest in astrology, feeding them gloomy astrological predictions about their military campaigns.*

Sound anything like what Helen Duncan was doing?

British intelligence has been involved with the occult for a very long time. Aleister Crowley had been infiltrating and disrupting 'secret societies' on behalf of MI5's predecessors since the late 1890s. Harry Price, the highest-profile *hostile* Helen Duncan witness, had sown discord in the Spiritualist movement since 1920, when he gave up a seedy career in antiques to become a 'debunker' for the Society for Psychical Research, an organization which included Aleister Crowley's spook boss, Everard Feilding, as one of its luminaries.

Harry Price, a gent who knew something about showmanship.

Why was the British secret service so interested in spiritualists and the occult in general? The best answer to that question I've found comes from Richard B. Spence's book *Secret Agent 666: Aleister Crowley, British Intelligence and the Occult*. Secret Societies like the Masons and religious movements like Spiritualism were "gateways to the British Establishment" **and feeder-pools into the intelligence community**.

> *While Freemasonry had become a worldwide organization by the 1890s, with various branches and jurisdictions, the United Grand Lodge of England and Wales (UGLE) remained the largest regular body, and Britain the most Masonic of countries. By 1900, the UGLE boasted almost 3000 lodges with nearly 200,000 brethren.23 That was still a tiny minority out of a general population of some 33 million, but Masonic affiliation had become a virtual union card for admission to the British establishment. Thus, the proportion of Masons in governmental service (including intelligence agencies) was much, much higher than in the population generally.*

(Since Helen had prominent Masonic supporters, you can understand how gingerly spooks like Fleming had to treat the Duncan trail, for fear of stepping on important toes AND outing their own unsavory 'tricks'.)

Spence puts forward a convincing argument that Crowley was a British intelligence agent since his days at Cambridge, and that Crowley worked for William Melville, the original 'M'. Spence suggests that domestic intelligence pros like Melville were concerned that these occult organizations would provide cover for Irish nationalist, Jacobite ('Legitimist') and Papist agitators and other anti-government groups. (Masonic off-shoots did count a number of "regime change" specialists in their top ranks, such as Samuel MacGregor Mathers and Bertram Ashburnahm who, along with others, were busy running arms and fermenting revolutions across Europe in the late Victorian era.)

The Brits' greatest competitors in using the occult sphere for intelligence work were the German secret services; in fact, the Germans appear to have been more adept:

> *Reuss' [Theodor Reuss, German Intel operative] main achievement (with some help from the Austrian industrialist Karl Kellner) was the creation circa 1902 of the Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO), the "Order of Oriental Templars." Second only to the Illuminati, perhaps, the OTO has earned a reputation as a center of conspiratorial skullduggery and even the dubious title of "The World's Most Dangerous Secret Society." 31*
>
> *Outwardly, the OTO seems to have remained rather small and exclusive, though Reuss tirelessly recruited, out of both spiritual zeal and vanity, but also to use the Order as a cover for German intelligence.*

It shouldn't be surprising that German spooks were adept at handling subversive secret societies, seeing as they'd been dealing with organizations like 'the Illuminati' since 1776.

Back in Britain spymasters such as Melville, and his counterintelligence counterparts, may have reasoned that British occult movements were an unguarded back door for German spies. The circles that Crowley practiced his 'magic' in were so thick with German operatives that at times it was difficult for contemporary onlookers to tell which bunch of spooks, exactly, Crowley worked for!

Not only were influential Brits enamored with the paranormal, but prominent Americans were as well. Abraham Lincoln participated in séances in the White House; Woodrow Wilson consulted psychics; Franklin Delano Roosevelt was 'read' by a psychic FBI informer and friend of J. Edgar Hoover; and Ronald Reagan had a few psychic advisors.

What I'd like readers to take home is that influential people all over the world took this occult stuff very seriously. (Some still do!) Intelligence professionals realized that manipulating these beliefs could provide valuable information and counterintelligence protection as well providing vehicles for 'black ops' and disinformation of the type I described previously.

All this 'Hellish Nell' stuff was a lifetime ago. So why do documentaries like Tony Robinson's, and books like *The Strange Case of Hellish Nell*, skirt the intelligence/occult connection? I suggest their skittishness is because such operations are still ongoing.

Here's a Google Maps image of psychics, and psychic research institutes, which **advertise** and are located around London's Whitehall district. (Whitehall Road is between the River Thames and 'Michael Francois Psychic'.)

Here's a Google Maps image of practicing psychics' location around the Capitol area of Washington D.C.

Psychics practicing near Congress.

Each red call out box is a psychic business. There are three on the road between the White House building and Dupont Circle, the embassy hot-spot/upper-crust neighborhood.

Here's a similar map of the psychics plying their trade on Wall Street.

Red dots are publically advertising psychics.

Those two dots are just the psychics advertising through Google, when you actually walk those streets, it's shocking how many seers/tarot readers work near the exchange. Here's an October 2011 *New York Magazine* article documenting the phenomenon.

> *Millionaires are very concerned about their money," says the psychic Frank Andrews, offering a breakdown of his new and unexpected clientele. "The billionaires, on the other hand—they come just for fun." Such is the insecurity of the average Wall Street baron as the market roller-coasters and protesters mass at their door: Bankers are turning to the spirit world for guidance—the clairvoyant reading as an algorithm of last resort.*

From later on in the same article:

> *Rosanna Schaffer-Shaw, a former belly dancer turned tarot-card reader and psychic who goes by "Fahrusha," sees her Wall Street clients in her Alphabet City apartment. (Concerned with discretion, bankers are perhaps more likely to visit psychics who practice at home than they are to walk past a neon psychic sign and go into a glass-faced storefront.)*
>
> *Fahrusha has a message for policy-makers in Washington. "If there was a better energy policy," she says, "if there could be more investment in alternative energy … it would be fabulous. The economy could improve if people would look at green solutions."*
>
> *I ask her if that's her professional psychic analysis or just her opinion.*
>
> *"You know?" She thinks for a second and shrugs. "It's so hard to separate the two."*

Gee– Al Gore agrees with Fahrusha! The fates decree that we should throw some more pork at alternative energy… Solyndra, cough cough. Obama's energy disaster had filed for bankruptcy a few weeks before Fahrusha's interview. (Good news is that Klain from the Solyndra scandal is now in charge of Ebola!)

My point with these maps is to show that there is definitely a market for the paranormal around major power centers. I'm certainly not the first person to have noticed this, and any "great user of people" would have harnessed that market long ago.

But is there an ongoing effort to protect modern 'psychic' operations?

I have not read every book on 'Hellish Nell'. However, here's a bit of background on some of the more accessible modern media concerning Helen Duncan.

1) Tony Robinson's 2008 documentary was produced and directed by Thomas Viner for Channel Four, a British Government entity that was created to expand on the programming offered by the BBC. The BBC was set up with the help of William Stephenson, Churchill's spymaster in NYC (See *The Quiet Canadian* by H. Montgomery Hyde) and founding father of what became the CIA. Viner also works for television channels Nat Geo and Discovery. Along with the History Channel, both Nat Geo and Discovery have pretty blatant intel connections, in my opinion. Viner's documentary on Duncan focuses exclusively on the question of whether Duncan was truly psychic, with a few shout-outs to *agent provocateur* Harry Price thrown in for good measure.

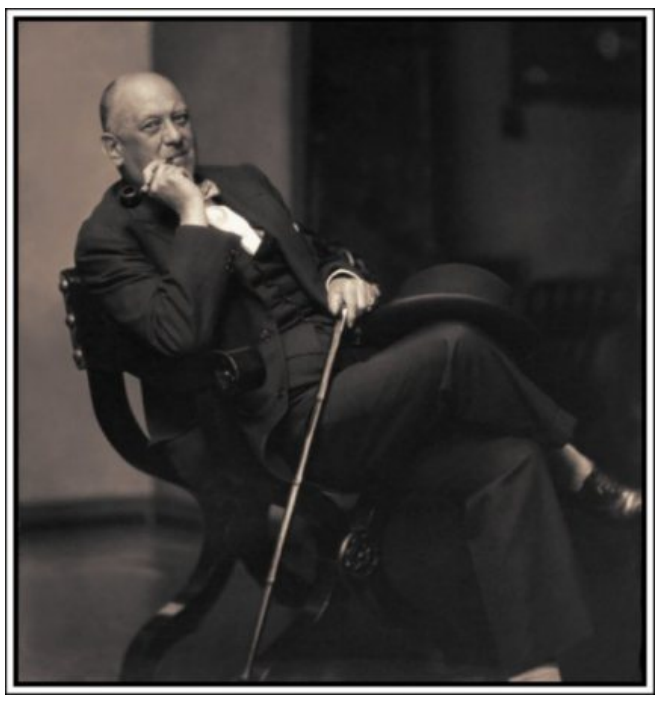
2) Nina Shandler's *The Strange Case of Hellish Nell* was published in 2006. Shandler is a psychologist turned historian, who claims to have been given 'accidental' access to British National Archives files on Helen Duncan that should have been secret until 2046 because they contain information vital to the UK's "national security". What a mistake! Shandler's book reads more like a romance novel than an historical investigation and she doesn't explore British Intelligence forays into the occult, even though Aleister Crowley's spook antics have been public knowledge since Richard B. Spence's 2000 article "Secret Agent 666: Aleister Crowley and British Intelligence in America, 1914-1918″, which appeared in the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence*. Instead, Shandler pays undo attention to cavity searches and wrings her hands about religious persecution.

3) Finally, onto Richard B. Spence himself. Spence is a regular on the History Channel, and a consultant to Washington's International Spy Museum– a silly tourist trap that gins up anti-Russian feelings and flatters the US 'intelligence community'. Having said that, Spence's book *Secret Agent 666: Aleister Crowley, British Intelligence and the Occult* does contain interesting factual information and gossip about 'The Beast's' spook-work.

Spence's **book does not contain** any mention of Helen Duncan, even though a) the details of her case were highly publicized at the time *including the fact that the original charge against her was espionage* AND b) Crowley's 'handler' Everard Feilding's Society for Psychical Research played an important role in the Duncan story. Why, Mr. Spence? If the gossip around Crowley and the Wych-Elm/Charles Walton murders was worth including, why not the more important and well-documented Duncan case?

When I learned about history in school, my teachers were careful to tell me that the source of information is just as important as the information itself. The sources I've listed may have reasons to obscure intelligence relations to the occult. In an age where presidents talk to God, the paranormal can be quite useful.

I encourage any lawmakers who consult mediums *and* read anolen.com to *know thyselves*. If I still have Bulgakov fans reading, we can ask ourselves again: *Is the Devil a German?*



Aleister Crowley, a magician on and off the stage. Crowley performed at Moscow's Aquarium Variety Theater in 1913, with the help of UK Intel asset Mikhail Lyiardopoulos, secretary of the Moscow Art Theater. A few years later MAT would become Bulgakov's employer. Gave me goose-bumps too.

LEAVE A COMMENT

ELEANOR AND ISIS

A lady of exploitable insecurities.

A few days ago I read an article in *Haaretz* about young French girls being brainwashed into 1) joining jihad in Syria or 2) working for IS/ISIS/'Islamic State'. (Branding nightmare!) According to a French politician, the brainwashers have specific reasons for targeting young, insecure women:

> *French senator Nathalie Goulet is leading an inquiry into the recruiting networks, and she defends the decision to treat even young girls as terrorists.*
>
> *"When people return, how can you be sure that they are detoxified? And they have to be detoxified," Goulet says. "It's a violent word, I know. … If you're looking at girls, you're right to, because they are a target population, fragile in their ability to be drawn in, then very strong once they're in the system."*

Why are girls so strong once "they're in the system"?

> *This role for girls reflects the desire of jihadists in Syria to attract not just fighters but also families, says Louis Caprioli, a former official with France's anti-terrorist services.*
>
> *"The propaganda put in place is to form a union with the jihadists, to have children and to raise future fighters," he says.*

And…

> *"As soon as they manage to snare a girl, they do everything they can to keep her," Foad [Foad El-Bahty, brother of a*

> *female 'jihadi'] says. "Girls aren't there for combat, just for marriage and children. A reproduction machine."*
>
> *Two people have been charged in Nora's case, including the young mother who sheltered her in Paris, according to a legal official and the family's lawyer, Guy Guenoun. The travel agency has been questioned but not charged, Guenoun says.*
>
> *"It is not at random that these girls are leaving. They are being guided. She was being commanded by remote control," he says. "And now she has made a trip to the pit of hell."*

"The pit of hell" is Syria, a country which used to be one of the more successful Middle Eastern states before the US started funding Muslim fundamentalists there, fundamentalists who are now recruiting Western misfits through Facebook– that 'social media' company with close working ties to the American intelligence community. (Readers may also want to refresh their memory about the *likely* US-sponsored jihad al-nikah movement.)

What struck me about these jihadi girls is how similar their targeting and recruitment is to what was reported to have happened to Eleanor Roosevelt. Eleanor Roosevelt's son-in-law, Curtis B. Dall, wrote a book about his time with the family titled *F.D.R. My Exploited Father-In-Law*. In this book Dall described how a group of bankers and socialists befriended and manipulated Eleanor in order to control Franklin; and how once Eleanor had been recruited, she was 'strong in the system'.

Continuing with my theme of 'exploitation', today I'm going to write about the similarities between these 'jihadinas' and Eleanor. I'll start by letting Dall speak for himself about his in-laws:

> *I will devote several chapters in this book to FDR, a gentleman whom I became very fond of as my then father-in-law. This was chiefly before the time when politics again entered the scene and gradually became an overpowering force…*
>
> *In many respects, FDR was clearly the highly publicized political "Lead Horse." But he was not the "Driver" of the political conveyance, the man who held the reins and cracked the whip. He might be suitably described as the long-range "gun," the ammunition for which was duly provided by "others"… by close advisers, including his wife, and by some Council on Foreign Relations leaders.*
>
> *In the first era, I knew Franklin Roosevelt in the successive roles of acquaintance, friend, father-in-law, Governor, and then President– an exploited one. In the second era, he was President of the United States and soon became a leading figure in world political affairs, heavily influenced and guided by his advisers.*

TIME magazine was originally owned by Clare Boothe Luce's husband and was outed as a CIA asset by Rolling Stone's Carl Bernstein. *Snicker*.

In his book, Dall makes careful observations about Eleanor Roosevelt's role exploiting her own husband, an invalid who depended on her more than most men depend on their wives. Dall also points out that Eleanor's manipulation of her husband wasn't her own idea. Eleanor's political ideas were mostly formed by her friends: Louis Howe and his peer Col. E. Mandel House; Henry Morgenthau Jr. and his wife; Nancy Cook; Marian Dickerson. This is how Dall describes Eleanor's malleability:

> *It is timely to mention Louis Howe's influence upon Eleanor Roosevelt, as I view it.*
>
> *Long before 1920, Louis had become a "fixture" in FDR's family. I couldn't quite figure it out, and I was not much interested in political maneuvering. Clearly, that was none of my business…*
>
> *I was aware that he [Louis Howe] had a daily conference with FDR and that Louis spent even more time during the evening going over political and ideological matters with Mama [Eleanor Roosevelt]! Often, through her, people "got" to FDR on certain matters.*
>
> *Night after night, after the dinner hour, the lengthy conversations of Mama and Louis would take place in the third floor front room. Usually, many newspaper editorials and clippings from various newspapers on political matters were under discussion or study. Sometimes, I joined in their confab for a few minutes, but my casual and friendly "drop-in" visits appeared to be an intrusion upon Louis' program, and so I would soon depart.*

Eleanor's indoctrination by Louis Howe was of the international socialist kind: the last time Dall remembers seeing Howe was after Dall stumbled in on a meeting between Howe and some Russian-looking visitors at the

White House, a visit which Howe was trying to keep secret between himself and Eleanor.

What sort of issues were Eleanor and Franklin used over?

> *Years passed, during which it became obvious to me that Eleanor Roosevelt's political ideology had steadily moved to the Left. In contrast, mine was leaning to the conservative side, moving to the Right.*
>
> *The deceptive overtones of Pearl Harbor, the pro-Soviet peace terms at the close of World War II, the refusal of General Eisenhower to let General Patton conclude a proper military objective and take Berlin, Eisenhower's cruel unheard of forced-repatriation program; the Berlin Corridor Arrangement, Harry Hopkins' sending abroad to the Soviets our U.S. money plates, paper and ink, for them to rob and fleece us, the tragic matter of Governor Earle (not to stop World War II sooner, to be dealt with later)– all these things did not seem proper and were most disturbing to me!*

If you want more information about what FDR cronies were planning for General Patton and his likely assassination, check out my post on Cuneo and General Patton. (In a week or two I'll talk about forced repatriations and the Spiritualist movement, but that's for later.)

Prior to her political radicalization, Dall remembers Eleanor as being a kind homemaker and *highly-involved mother*, albeit a lady chafing under a lack of money and 'higher purpose'. Eleanor wanted to belong to something bigger than herself; to teach the world how to be better, just as if the rest of humanity were children awaiting her instruction.

My point with this post is to show that ISIS doesn't have a thing on Louis Howe and the Council on Foreign Relations when it comes to exploiting women who have low self-esteem and want to be part of 'something bigger than themselves'. These users achieve their aims by identifying insecurities in their victims and exploiting those insecurities. ISIS goes after culturally displaced girls who are searching for a sense of identity. What were Eleanor Roosevelt's soft-spots? According to Curtis Dall:

> *In Albany and elsewhere, Eleanor Roosevelt's circle of influence was enlarging. The Gold Seal of the State of New York on letter paper for state correspondence by her husband was impressive! The oblique reactions thereto were not what could be described as inconsequential!! So, the misgivings of Eleanor Roosevelt during former years, the feeling that her Oyster Bay relatives had really "made it", whereas her and her husband had* not *soon faded away into the background! Larger and greener pastures for the future came into view.*

And…

> *Eleanor Roosevelt's knowledge about "Southern" racial relations was very superficial. Her approach was chiefly a political one. It was a clever but regrettable vote-catching operation on her part, one which was loudly applauded, of course, by numerous far-flung communistic groups and left-wing newspapers.*

And finally…

> *Outside the factor of being lucrative, I cannot comprehend why the objectives of the Internationalist-Socialist-Communist program attracted the strong support of Eleanor Roosevelt. All in all, the results achieved by her appear to be self-serving and quite unmindful of her country's best interests.*

When I think back to the women I've had as teachers or bosses, many (not all, but many!) have had similar characteristics to Eleanor Roosevelt. I don't think Eleanor's needs and weaknesses are unusual amongst our sex. From my experience, women *are* funny creatures: we're often an unstable mix of *wanting to please* while also *wanting to control by indirection*. 'Taking the moral high ground' is a great way to control by indirection. Female nature makes us very susceptible to being 'recruited' by 'authority figures' to proselytize for their agenda, because being 'right' and on the winning team makes us feel good about ourselves (power-worship). Women **love** to be crusaders, whether for socially acceptable things like equality or feminism; or not-so-acceptable things, like 'Islamic State'.

I suspect, readers, that many women's attraction to proselytizing is rooted in the same desires that Nigella Lawson cashed in on with her 'kept woman' sales pitch. Obviously, Eleanor Roosevelt could never be valuable in the same way Nigella was valuable to Saatchi when she was younger, but Eleanor could still be a valuable 'intellectual' or 'spiritual' possession to her network of 'friends'. *There's no 'vert like a convert.*

It's uncomfortable for modern women, and particularly feminists, to square up to the exploitable aspects of our nature because it's tantamount to admitting weakness. Never the less, history and current events show very clearly that these weaknesses do exist. Perhaps the position of true strength is to recognize our weaknesses and be wary of political movements that claim to 'help' us– whether those movements be 'Islamic State' jihad or "the milk of FDR".

I believe that the best defense against "great users of people" is to *know thyself*.

A story that one-time *Vogue* editor and 'black ops' aficionado Clare Boothe Luce would love.

1 COMMENT

GREAT USERS OF PEOPLE

I started to think about 'power worship' a couple of years ago, after having read a few essays by George Orwell on the subject. Orwell thought that an unhealthy subservience to power was infecting British cultural and political life. 'Jack the Giant-Killer' was no longer the fundamental Western myth, instead something ugly and fawning had taken its place… the fairytale of the supreme leader.

The fairytale of the supreme leader teaches children to identify with following one leader who is 'good'– for modern readers, think Harry Potter, He-Man etc. The story doesn't change much when it's repackaged for adults, except there's more carnality thrown into the mix: consider the pantry-erotica of Nigella Lawson; the submissive longings of *Fifty Shades of Grey's* Ana; or James Bond's slavishness to the organization of his master 'M'. Whether child or adult, the reader is encouraged to believe *validation of one's own worth* comes from being accepted by a powerful master.

That's the story. In reality, of course, both Nigella and Ana get older, less attractive and they lose whatever prestige being owned gave them. James Bond outlives his usefulness and is denied a pension because he was *never officially* on Her Majesty's books, was he? If you think I'm joking, keep reading…

This post isn't about abusive husbands or lovers, it's about how bad organizations use people. I'm going to take my favorite group, 'the intelligence community', as an example because their ethical problems are aggravated by the fact that their leadership is *not really* held accountable to anyone. The finance community could serve as an equally good example, however.

How is an institution abusive toward a person?

Any abuser will try to convince their target that the target 'needs' them to be happy, that the abuser provides some special validation to the victim. In reality, the victim's *healthy* needs are not being met and that's a painful problem for them. Instead of dealing with the source of the problem– the abuser and the unhealthy need– the victim tries to deal with their pain in other ways, not all of them helpful. Consider the propensity for military drone operators to self-destruct, for example: US version and UK version.

Institutional abuse won't be something dramatic like bodily harm: it might be working employees in a way that makes having a healthy family life impossible; or making the 'clearance' process such a black box that it scares employees out of political engagement; or **exploiting existing mental illness**. In return, the employee is told that they're special, unique, a 'cut above' the rest and part of a 'secret team'.

This type of positive reinforcement is particularly effective against people with low self-esteem, or the character weaknesses which used to be described as 'narcissism'. ('Narcissism' is exceptionally prevalent in the military community, which is the community most spooks are drawn from.) Perhaps worst of all, these abusive practices can trick weak-minded people into doing things that run against their own conscience; things that poison the soul and may also trap the individual later. *Ex-intelligence agents don't exist.* Welcome to human resources in the spy business!

A critical reader may look at what I've written and say: "That's just a.nolen's opinion." It *is* my opinion, but I encourage you to read the opinions of a few intelligence pros who were brave enough to be candid about their profession. Consider this anecdote about Klop Ustinov, a valuable war-time spy for the British, which is taken from Peter Wright's bestseller *Spycatcher:*

(Peter Wright worked in MI5 for most of his life and his father was Engineer in Chief for the Marconi Company, so intelligence was a family business- a.nolen.)

> *Klop Ustinov was German by descent, but he had strong connections in the Russian diplomatic community and was a frequent visitor to the Embassy… Ustinov was recruited by MI5, and began to obtain high-grade intelligence from zu Putlitz about the true state of German rearmament. It was priceless intelligence, possibly the most important human-source intelligence Britain received in the prewar period. After meeting zu Putlitz, Ustinov and he used to dine with Vansittart and Churchill, then in the wilderness, to brief them on the intelligence they had gained. Zu Putlitz became something of a second son to the urbane English diplomat. Even after the outbreak of war Ustinov continued meeing zu Putlitz, by now working in Holland as an air attaché. Finally in 1940 zu Putlitz learned that the Gestapo were closing in and he decided to defect. Once more Ustinov traveled into Holland and, at great personal risk, led zu Putlitz to safety.*
>
> *I [Peter Wright] took a taxi over to Ustinov's flat in Kensington, expecting to meet a hero of the secret world living in honorable retirement. In fact, Ustinov and his wife were sitting in a dingy flat surrounded by piles of ancient, leather-bound books. He was making ends meet by selling off his fast-diminishing library…*
>
> *"I do these things, Peter, and they leave me here. My wife and I… penniless."*
>
> *"But what about your pension?" I asked.*
>
> *"Pension? I have no pension," he flashed back bitterly. "When you work for them you never think about the future, about old age. You do it for love. And when it comes time to die, they abandon you."*

Wright wrapped up the incident this way: "But I learned a lesson I never forgot: that MI5 expects its officers to remain loyal unto the grave, without necessarily offering loyalty in return."

Peter Wright's disappointment with 'the intelligence community' doesn't end with MI5:

> *The profession of intelligence is a solitary one. There is camaraderie, of course, but in the end you are alone with your secrets. You live and work at a feverish pitch of excitement, dependent always on the help of your colleagues. But you always move on, whether to a new branch or department, or to a new operation. And when you move on, you inherit new secrets which subtly divorce you from those you have worked with before. Contacts, especially with the outside world, are casual, since the largest part of yourself cannot be shared. For this reason, intelligence services are great users of people.*

I share Peter Wright's opinion that to persist in the intelligence business, you need to be comfortable using and being used. Emotionally healthy people *aren't* comfortable with all this *using*, which brings me back to 'narcissism'.

Mental health pros no longer consider 'narcissism' a mental illness; the symptoms that defined it appear to have been absorbed into the definitions of other conditions. I think one could make a strong case that 'narcissism' was always as much about values and choices as it was about illness, but from the point of view of society, narcissism's *cause* isn't as important as identifying narcissistic characteristics. The Mayo clinic provides a list of what these characteristics were, which includes things like "fantasizing about power" and "taking advantage of others". Other researchers reported that 'narcissists' had a propensity towards pathological lying. Bearing these 'symptoms' in mind, consider another professional spook's opinion– that of Philippe de Vosjoli, James Angleton's working ally and French intelligence agent. Tom Mangold reports this conversation with de Vosjoli in *Cold Warrior*:

> *It is late, and the little Frenchman climbs into his Renault Five in the old quarter of Geneva. "Listen, I'll tell you something. In the world of intelligence you have a lot of sick people. They cannot tell the truth. Now I'm talking to you, but what do I know about you? You may be a spy yourself, you may be working for the KGB or MI6. In this business you trust no one. You know, I stayed in that job too long. Twelve years is too long."*

De Vosjoli came to the conclusion that many other spooks were pathological liars with hidden agendas who couldn't be trusted: "sick" people. Could that 'sickness' be something like the condition which used to be described as 'narcissism'? Consider this study of narcissism in the military by J.A. Bourgeois, M.J. Hall, R.M. Crosby and K.G. Drexler of the Air Force Medical Center (SGHAE) at Wright-Patterson Air Force base:

> *Various studies examining the prevalence of personality disorders in civilian inpatient and outpatient populations have consistently found narcissistic personality disorder to be one of the least common. In striking contrast to this, a recently published study showed narcissistic personality features to be among the most common personality features in a military outpatient clinic population. This paper examines several possible explanations for this finding. This surprisingly high relative incidence of narcissistic personality features may be related to a self-selection bias on the part of persons choosing a military career. Narcissistic personality traits may confer adaptive advantage in certain military professional roles. Kohut's theory of specific transference requirements in individuals with narcissistic character structure serves as a useful explanatory model for these findings.*

What is Kohut's theory of specific transference requirements? In a nutshell:

> *The narcissistic adult, according to Kohut's concepts, vacillates between an irrational overestimation of the self and irrational feelings of inferiority, and relies on others to regulate his self esteem and give him a sense of value.*

If Kohut's theory is correct, then it must be very comforting for a narcissistic person to know that the best person to "give him a sense of value" is the next guy up the food chain… Of course, Bourgeois *et alia* don't discuss the preponderance of military narcissists in terms of an intentional recruiting and control strategy.

Finally, I'm going to share the observations of one friend who had far more experience dealing with the intelligence community than I have had. They explained the CIA's institutional culture to me in this way:

> *"Imagine that it's 1940 and you're a well-connected rich kid who hears that the president is starting up a secret society which is going to do exciting things to win the war. That type of opportunity appeals to people who are 1) patriotic and/or 2) want approval from the powerful and/or 3) want in on government-sponsored organized crime."*
>
> *"Once the war was over, many of the patriotic ones dropped out. The organization was left with a large group of people whose motivations were not noble. Now imagine that organization persisting over generations, each generation self-selecting for more and more recruits who think like them; for recruits who are motivated by 2) and 3). That's what the CIA is now."*

Generations of self-selected, damaged people are how we ended up with institutions that think drag-net spying on their fellow citizens is 'okay' or even 'a necessary evil'. Only generations of self-selected, damaged people could be so sheltered and brain-washed as to not understand the *mortal danger* in our current situation.

I find it easy to write about General Patton, Walt Disney and Leonid Andreyev because their fates make the danger of unaccountable government crystal clear. I tend to overlook the fact that organizations like the CIA, NSA, etc. are just as poisonous to their rank-and-file as they are to my country's intellectual health. When 'ex-intelligence agent' Quinn Norton wrote about the intelligence community existing to preserve itself, she left out an important fact: the intelligence community *doesn't* preserve itself, it preserves a small group of people 'on floor seven' who decide how to implement decisions which, frankly, are probably made by the people who get *them* appointed. Now isn't James Bond sexy?

3 COMMENTS

CUNEO AND GENERAL PATTON

It seems I'll never be short of reasons to dislike FDR's 'Office of Strategic Services', the forerunner to our beloved CIA. Today I'm going to tell the sordid tale of how and why OSS/BSC heavy-weight Ernest Cuneo attacked Gen. George S. Patton in 1943.

Cuneo, a New York lawyer who represented radio personalities, used his client and BSC pet-journalist Drew Pearson to spread a story about Patton: that Patton had cruelly slapped a shell-shocked soldier during one of his hospital visits. In the original story Cuneo said that because of the attack, Patton would no longer be used in the European war theater. This is how Michael S. Sweeney explains the incident in his book *Secrets of Victory: The Office of Censorship and the American Press*:

> *Pearson publicly defended what he had published and broadcast about Welles and Hull, but privately he fretted about some of this audience abandoning him. He conferred with Ernest Cuneo, his radio lawyer, who served the government as a liaison among British intelligence, the FBI and the Office of the Coordinator of Information. Cuneo said a big, exclusive story would make people forget the president's criticism. And since his government job gave him access to military intelligence, he suggested Pearson broadcast a Patton story he had heard.79*
>
> *Pearson apparently had no doubts about the story's authenticity. He discussed the details with the War Department which declined to issue a denial. 80 Pearson's radio network took the story to the Office of Censorship. On the afternoon of November 14th, 1943, WMAL's Neel sent Pearson's script to the censors' Broadcasting Division. The*

> *sixth and seventh pages included the following item:*
>
> *Algiers– General George Patton, nicknamed "Blood and Guts," will not be used in any European war theatre anymore. He was a bit too bloody for the morale of the Army. Inspecting an American hospital in Sicily, General Patton noticed several soldiers listed as "fatigue" patients. Fatigue means a cas of nerves or shell-shock. Patton ordered one man to stand up. The soldier, out of his head, told the General to duck down or the shells would hit him. Instead, Patton struck the soldier, knocking him down. The commanding doctor rushed in, told Patton that in the field Patton was in command of his troops, but in the hospital he, the doctor was in command of this patients. He ordered General Patton not to interfere. General Patton started to draw a gun, but was disarmed. He will not be used in important combat anymore.81*

Sweeney, the author writing above, says Pearson's story can't be corroborated and is almost entirely false. Neither Pearson nor the US government appear to have taken any action against Ernest Cuneo. (It's worth noting that the CIA is pleased with Sweeney's depiction of US censorship efforts during WWII, because his book "focuses on the success of the program".)

Sweeney suggests that Pearson's story resulted in Patton being given less control over the European front, ultimately leaving more of Eastern Europe under Soviet control. Never the less, Patton continued to prove himself to be an excellent commander and by the end of the war he had immense prestige and popular appeal– a dangerous place to be under the FDR administration!

Why would a man like Cuneo attack Patton, especially in the middle of a war?

Ernest Cuneo with Margaret Watson.

Ernest Cuneo was a trusted member for FDR's "palace guard", perhaps more honestly named 'traitorous spy ring'. General William Donovan, the head of the OSS, made Cuneo a liaison between the OSS, British Security Coordination (BSC), the FBI, the United States Department of State ('Surrogate' to the Rooskies!!), and U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt. Prior to his spook appointment, Cuneo was a New York City lawyer/political wheeler-dealer and 'fixer' for the Roosevelt Administration.

General George S. Patton was the political opposite of Ernest Cuneo. Patton made a career out of the US Army: he served in the Pancho Villa Expedition, WWI and finally WWII. Patton distrusted the Soviets, Cuneo's close-working allies. As early as 1943, one year after the OSS was officially formed, pro-Soviet OSS operatives like Cuneo were working out how to dispose of prominent Americans who didn't support their agenda.

Gen. George Patton

What frightened Cuneo about Patton's views? Consider that at the end of WWII, Patton suggested the USA should protect Europe by continuing to fight the Soviets. As you can imagine, this view was an anathema to the good OSS'ers who'd "drank the milk of FDR," as Bill Colby's boy Carl describes them. Shortly after airing his opinion, Patton died under mysterious circumstances.

It's incredible to me that Cuneo could get away with smearing a general like Patton during WWII, especially under Washington's pernicious 'self-censorship' regime. However, Cuneo's actions are even more creepy when you compare them to what Soviet agents were trying to do in the US at the same time. There was *little difference* between FDR/BSC operations and Soviet operations against the American press, except maybe that FDR/BSC operations were more successful.

To flesh out that point, I'm going to describe a Soviet operation; an operation carried out and disclosed to the FBI by USSR agent Elizabeth Bentley. I'm also going to describe how Cuneo took over a huge swath of the American press on behalf of the OSS/BSC and then finally on behalf of the CIA. By the end of this you may feel that, from the perspective of the American people, there's *little difference* between Moscow and Washington.

Soviet and OSS strategies were very similar with respect to the American media: they both wanted to control as much of it as possible so that they could broadcast their own messages, messages which were similar for the most part. To put Cuneo's OSS propaganda in context, let's look at what Elizabeth Bentley was doing for the Soviets.

It's easier to fool people than to convince them they have been fooled.

Elizabeth Bentley was a Soviet spy working in the 1930s- early '40s. She was managed or 'run' by her lover Jacob 'Golos' (real name 'Gold'). Neither of the pair were very good spooks because they were sloppy about security procedures. However, Elizabeth was given at least one interesting mission from my perspective: Gold told her to infiltrate the McClure publishing concern to find out if its editor (and owner) had 'fascist' sympathies– which really means Elizabeth was to find out if he could be useful to the Soviets. Kathryn S. Olmsted says this in *Red Spy Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth Bentley:*

> *Unlike [Whittaker] Chambers, Elizabeth succeeded in rationalizing and accepting the Stalinist purges and the Hitler-Stalin pact. Timmy's [Jacob Gold's] argument that the Soviets remained anti-fascist at heart seemed persuasive, especially after Elizabeth received her next assignment.*
>
> *Timmy directed her to try again to spy on New York fascists. He wanted her to infiltrate the staff of a right-wing newspaper publisher, Richard Waldo of the McClure syndicate, to determine if he was a fascist agent. Elizabeth obediently took a job as Waldo's secretary, but she reported to her disappointed lover that she found no evidence that her boss had fascist connections.*

This mission appears to have happened sometime between August 1939 and November 1943, when Waldo died. It strikes me that what the Soviets couldn't achieve by manipulating Waldo, their sympathizers ultimately achieved through the resources of allies at the OSS, namely Ernest Cuneo, who bought the McClure syndicate in 1952 after Waldo's widow has sold it to James L. Lenahan. Lenahan had struggled to meet financial demands associated with the syndicate's stock. According to a 1952 'News of Yore' article by Erwin Knoll:

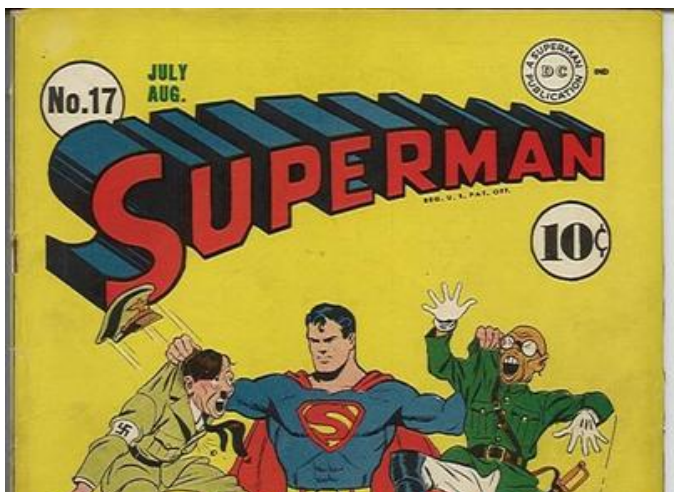
> *Control of the syndicate passed to the new owners with the purchase of a 1,000-share block of capital stock for $47,250 by Mr. Cuneo at an auction Thursday, Sept. 4. Mr. Cuneo outbid James L. Lenahan, former president and editor of the syndicate, and Guggenheimer & Untermeyer, attorneys for the estate of the late Adelaide P. Waldo.*
>
> *The attorneys had held the block of shares as security for a debt, and had themselves offered them for sale at auction.*

Whatever financial pressure Lenahan was under, it was being 'overseen' by Guggenheimer & Untermeyer, the infamous Wall Street law firm. Samuel Untermeyer, the firm's namesake, was a Woodrow Wilson supporter and active in carving up Austro-Hungarian resources after WWI. Untermeyer was a Zionist like his contemporary Herman Bernstein, and also like Bernstein, he dabbled in espionage:

> *After the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Untermyer acted as counsel to the German and Austro-Hungarian embassies. He also assisted an agent of the German government who wished to covertly purchase newspapers to influence public opinion.[93] After America's entry into the war, Untermyer had to temporarily suspend his sympathies with the Central Powers. After the war, however, he became counsel for an American syndicate that had acquired a one third share of the confiscated Habsburg Estates.[94] Following the resolution of a dispute between the syndicate and Archduke Frederick of Austria, Untermyer represented the Habsburg heir, who was seeking restitution of the other two-thirds of the estates.[95] He also represented eighteen of the heirs of the late Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II, who claimed ownership of oil fields in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq).[96]*

So I'm sure there were no conflicts of interest when Mr. Untermeyer's firm took up the Waldo account!

Lenahan's financial distress coincides with a notable period for the McClure syndicate: the later war years through 1952, when comic strips were used to promote Washington's domestic and international agenda. Lenahan's McClure syndicate had a special focus on distributing comic strips such as 'Superman', in which 'the Man of Steel' (who wasn't Stalin) did fictional battle with Washington's WWII enemies like Hitler and Emperor Hirohito.



The comic-book propaganda didn't end inside the US border. In 1946 'Superman' did battle with American *domestic* political opposition the Ku Klux Klan. All this government collaboration didn't make Lenahan enough money to get out from under the debts arranged through Guggenheimer & Untermeyer, which ended up costing Lenahan the company. *Shades of Disney's 'The Golden Touch'?*

Cuneo bought McClure in 1952, after having made an initial investment in the syndicate one year earlier with his partner John F.C. Bryce. However, Cuneo's interest in the media went back to his OSS days.

Cuneo's OSS mission was propaganda-centered: he would manipulate a swathe of the American media, much like his boss/co-conspirator William Stephenson who used his NYC connections to pervert reporting at the *Herald Tribune* and other broadsheets. While working for the OSS Cuneo fed friendly journalists **BRITISH** propaganda. 'Friendly journalists' include the following: Walter Winchell, Drew Pearson, Walter Lippmann, Robert Ingersoll, Whitelaw Reid, Dorothy Thompson, Edmond Taylor; and very likely include Edward Murrow, Eric Sevareid, Charles Collingwood, Howard K. Smith and William Shirer. Cuneo worked alongside newspaperman (and Roald Dahl mentor) Charles Marsh, Eleanor Patterson (*Washington Times Herald, NY Daily News, Chicago Tribune* owner), A. H. Sulzberger (owner of the *NYT)*, George Baker (owner of the *New York Post)*, and Ogden Reid (owner of the *Herald Tribune)*. Only Hearst publications declined to join the FDR/BSC propaganda campaign, according to Jennet Conant in *The Irregulars*. *That would explain Orson Wells' 1941 movie 'Citizen Kane'!*

Rosebud! I've just realized why I'm such a miserable old codger– *forgive me, Franklin!*

By 1952 the OSS had become the CIA and the war was over, *but the intelligence services never decolonized American media*. After Cuneo and John F. C. Bryce (another old OSS agent and James Bond inspiration) purchased the McClure syndicate, Bryce was made president.

> *According to plans announced just before E&P went to press, John Wheeler, chairman of the board of the four affiliated Bell concerns, will serve in a similar capacity at McClure. John F. C. Bryce, who with Mr. Cuneo purchased a substantial interest in the group in March, 1951, will be president of the new acquisition. He holds the same title in Consolidated News Features and Associated Newspapers. Joseph B. Agnelli, executive vice-president and general manager of the four companies, will be executive vice-president of McClure.*

(Joseph B. Agnelli *may* actually be Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat heir. I couldn't find *anything* on 'Joseph B. Agnelli', but Gianni was in NYC at about the right time to be involved in the McClure purchase– his only son was born in NYC in 1953.)

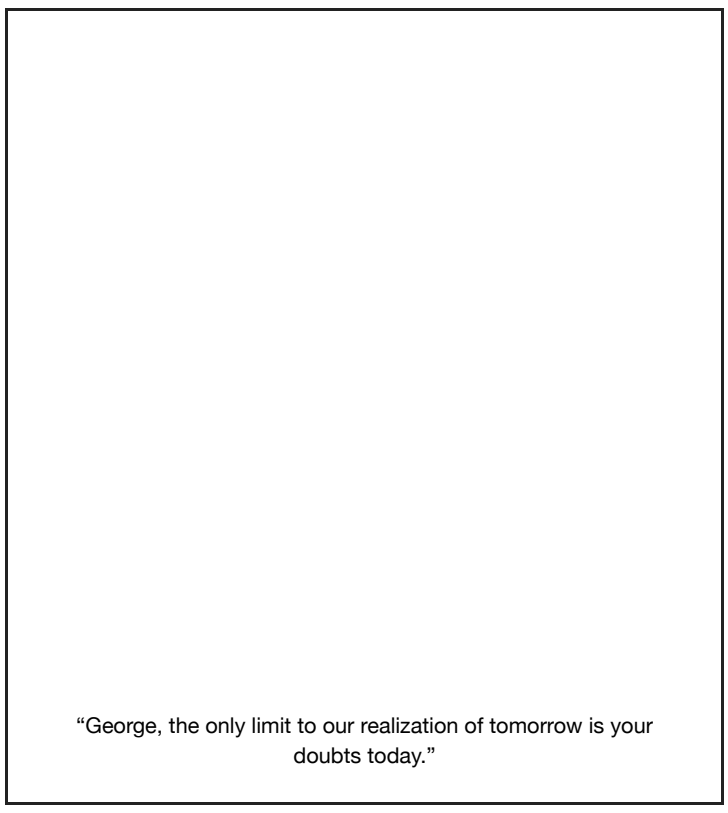
The McClure syndicate wasn't Cuneo's only purchase. He was on something of a newspaper-buying spree in the early 1950s: Cuneo also purchased NANA (North American Newspaper Alliance). NANA was famous for having sent communist sympathizer (and future KGB agent!) Ernest Hemingway to cover the Spanish Civil War, in which he also fought alongside the Communists. Hemingway would later become a rather lack-luster OSS agent, even by their standards.*

By the mid-1950s Cuneo and John F. C. Bryce had control of **four newspaper networks**: McClure, NANA, Associated Newspapers (now DMG Media, publishers of UK's *Daily Mail*) and Consolidated News Features. Cuneo made sure other OSS buddies had sweet jobs in his new empire– he made BSC agent and 'James Bond' creator Ian Flemming NANA's European Vice President. All this spookage has naturally lead more reflective observers like *Rolling Stone* and *Playboy* contributor Jules Siegel to question if Cuneo's NANA was a simple CIA front.

I hope I've shown that what happened to Gen Patton was not an isolated instance of 'shadow government' overstepping its bounds and interfering in the intellectual life of a nation. What happened to General Patton is a symptom of a much larger infection; I believe that what Elizabeth Bentley *tried to do* was no worse than what Cuneo or any of his pet-journalists *did*. Of course, the dark specter hanging over all of this is Patton's sudden heart failure on Dec 21st 1945. (What is it with spooks and heart failure?!)

I'm not an expert on the death of General Patton, however, it appears that some evidence has come to light suggesting that the General was assassinated after his initial recovery from a car accident in Germany. If you're interested in the details, I recommend reading this article by Robert K. Wilcox. Given the vicious nature of Soviet

sympathizers close to the White House– consider the case of Walt Disney and Leonid Andreyev— I can easily believe that Eisenhower worked with OSS/NKVD contacts to assassinate Patton. It certainly wouldn't have phased the Commander in Chief!



"George, the only limit to our realization of tomorrow is your doubts today."

—

*Hemingway's KGB work was outed by the Venona decrypts, a selection of which were made public in the mid-1990s. Some CIA-aligned historians have a hard time accepting that Hemingway would do such a thing and bend over backwards to convince themselves that Hemingway's heart wasn't with the KGB by pointing to Hemingway's uselessness to the Russians. Hemingway was so useless that the KGB soon dropped him. These historians' rosy-lensed view of Hemingway's KGB work ignores the fact that Hemingway was all but useless to the OSS too. Hemingway apologists may find themselves in a similar dilemma to the battered wife who insists "He loves me"!

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